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PRESS MIAMI PROBE, EUC HEAD URGES

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- In the wake of the recent riot in Miami, the Rev. Canon Lloyd S. Casson, chairman of the Episcopal Urban Caucus, called upon President Jimmy Carter and other government leaders to support the U.S. Justice Department investigation into the incidents which led to the mid-May violence.

In a related action, Bishop John T. Walker, chairman of the Urban Bishops Coalition, sent a telegram to Bishop Calvin O. Schofield of Southeast Florida in Miami expressing his personal concern and offering the support and help of the Coalition. Walker acknowledged the fact that any urban bishop may face a similar incident in the future and said that the situation "lends an urgency to our efforts to develop an effective urban program."

Casson's telegrams to President Carter and Mayors Maurice Ferre of Miami and Richard Clark of Dade County asked their encouragement and full support for the Justice Department investigation. Casson told them that such an investigation, followed by a full report to the community and the swift prosecution of any resulting charges would help encourage the black community now "legitimately bitter and cynical" about "officially imposed economic and social injustices" to "work together peacefully with others of goodwill for equality for all citizens of Dade County."

He decried the recent violence and recognized that it has imposed additional burdens on the greater Miami area which already faces the hardships of inflation and unemployment and the impact of a large number of displaced persons. But Casson's message pointed out that the Dade County criminal justice system, which has operated "consistently in an arbitrary and racially biased" manner, had contributed greatly to the climate in which the violence occurred.

Finally Casson told the President, "Your timely response may help convince all the socially and economically oppressed residents of urban America that their pleas for justice will not go unheeded."

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